

NURSING SEATTLE'S UNFORTUNATE SICKBy **KATHARINE MAJOR**

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FROM an old-time passenger boat, with a probable smuggler's record, to a hospital used for the care of a great city's sick poor is the brief history of the old side-wheeler Idaho, now the Wayside Emergency Hospital of Seattle.

It was certainly an ingenious mind that saw such possibilities in an old, discarded hulk of a boat, and the results of the experiment have been more potential than was hoped for, for to-day the Wayside Emergency Hospital has the reputation of being one of the most unique charities in the world. The old ship, now scuttled and propped up by many posts, lies next to a great wharf in the very heart of one of the busiest water-fronts in the country.

The great and little steamers of Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean pass to and fro behind and about it, while the many trains of three trans-continental railroads whiz in front of its open door. And to this old ship many desperately sick and injured people are carried daily. There they receive the best that medical attention and careful nursing can afford.

The equipment and arrangement of the Wayside Emergency Hospital are very interesting. Every inch of space of the old ship has been used, for it is scarcely large enough to accommodate all the patients that seek admission. A well-equipped office and dispensary, four wards for the men, and the kitchens and storerooms are located on the main deck, while what was once the old wheel-room is now the operating-room. This little operating-room, rather meagre in its furnishings as compared to those of the great hospitals, is, nevertheless, the scene of the most interesting and unusual operations known to surgery.

The upper deck of the ship has been converted into a ward for the women.

The old social hall is now the nurses' sitting-room and dining-room, and their bedrooms are the staterooms ranged along the side of the cabin. The pilot-house is used for a ward for contagious diseases. Both decks are equipped with bathrooms and toilets, and nothing is lacking for the comfort of the patients.

As the Wayside Emergency Hospital is essentially a charity, it is chiefly supported by contributions from the citizens of the city. The city and the county each give two hundred and fifty dollars per month towards its maintenance, and the balance is made up from private con-



WAYSIDE HOSPITAL, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

tributions. Every morning the men go out with carts to the commission merchants whose places of business are along the water-front and gather up the fruits and vegetables and fish which these men donate to the hospital, and it is safe to say that no hospital in the city is able to give its patients better or more wholesome food.

Some idea of the largeness of the work may be had from the following estimates. In the month of June, 1905, one hundred and nine patients were received in the hospital with a record of nine hundred and thirty-four days of care given. In July of the same year one hundred and five patients were received and one thousand and ninety-six days' care were given. In those two months there were also given over three hundred dispensary treatments. There are only forty-one beds on the ship and many more could easily be filled.

No more worthy work can be found than caring for the unfortunate sick. A large per cent. of any city's population would be objects of charity if sick for sixty days and credit for food and clothing were denied. Men live on the verge of starvation, and if it were not for sympathy and confidence there would be many more wanderers upon the face of the earth. The poor and unfortunate we will always have with us. The price of civilization is great and many fail who try for its best things. At the lower round is the man who *can* not and the man who *will* not. These must have the care of the strong.

Into the Wayside Emergency Hospital come many who are temporarily without the necessities of life and have no means for medical treatment. The great majority of the men are from "back East." As they come into the hospital they find clean beds, well-cooked food, and good medical treatment, and they go out again with a new hope and courage to take up once more life's battle. It is my opinion that nothing but the best should be given to the unfortunate in the world. The poverty of some and the reckless, shameless life of others afford a city no excuse for carelessness and indifference in caring for them when helpless from illness. To give other than the best a city affords is a reflection upon the character and government of the city. It is a principle of the "Wayside" that no sick and afflicted shall be turned away who come seeking help. No questions are asked as to pedigree or cause of poverty and disease. If the ox is in the mire, we pull him out. If the stranger who is sick and weary and hopeless comes our way, we take him in and give him the best we can afford. Many because of this treatment have gone out with a new love for their kind and a desire to make the most of life before them. The strong and rich will take care of themselves. The weak and poor and sinning need the touch of sympathy and help in their emergencies.

It has been my privilege to have known much of hospital work in other cities, and I will say that no hospital in the land is doing more for the poor than the Wayside Emergency Hospital of Seattle.

The care of the poor and the temporarily unfortunate should be given by those who are in nowise connected with the political interests of a city. A wise business policy should be used to carry on the work, but it should always have in it the principles of the Friend of the Homeless and the Sick.

Mrs. Marion Baxter, who is the president and sole executive of the Wayside Emergency Hospital, is well known throughout the United States and Canada as a philanthropic worker, writer, and lecturer. Under her guiding hand the hospital has acquired a solid financial standing, and a great work has been fairly and substantially started. It is believed that through this work similar institutions will be organized for the care of the unfortunate in other cities.

We have eight carefully trained nurses whose training on the old ship has fitted them to compete with nurses of any other institution.

There is a staff also of six physicians, of whom Dr. U. C. Bates is the head, and also a consulting staff of six of the best-known physicians in the city. These doctors receive absolutely no compensation for their labors on the ship.

Should any of the readers of this article find themselves in Seattle, the Queen City of the Northwest, it would be well worth their while to pay the Wayside Emergency Hospital a visit, for it is unique not only in its looks and location, but in the work that it accomplishes and the fact that there is no other institution like it in the world.

TREATMENT OF HEMOPTYSIS.—*American Medicine* says: "Francis Hare (London, England) was led to try inhalation of amyl nitrite in hemoptysis on physiologic grounds. He argued that the known dilative influence of the drug upon the peripheral systemic arterioles would cause fall of blood-pressure in the aorta, left ventricle, left auricle, and ultimately in the pulmonary arterioles. He gives the results obtained in the first nine cases (eight tuberculous, one mitral). Sixteen attacks of hemoptysis were treated by amyl nitrite; in all save one the bleeding ceased in less than three minutes, for the most part instantaneously; in the one exception there was an immediate retardation, but cessation did not occur for ten minutes. The drug does not interfere with cough, hence retention of blood and subsequent septic pneumonia are obviated. The treatment is safe and easily applied by the patient himself."

SCHOLARSHIPS, LOAN FUNDS, TUITION FEES *

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THIS short report gives but a glimpse of a rapidly moving picture, but this one look makes a deep impression, more significant of progress along educational lines than any other single subject before us. The statistics are as follows:

SCHOOLS OF THE FIRST CLASS, TWENTY-FIVE TO FIFTY BEDS.

Papers returned, forty-seven; papers returned blank, sixteen; monthly allowances are given in twenty-eight; uniforms provided in four; text-books provided in two; charge for breakage in seven.

Maintenance reports give a range of one hundred and forty-four dollars to three hundred and twelve dollars. A prize is offered in one school at the end of the course, awarded to the student having the best recitations—amount is twenty-five dollars. One loan fund is mentioned, the amount not stated, the loan to be paid in one year with six per cent. interest. A personal note is required with security.

Tuition fee of eight dollars and fifty cents a month is charged in the Tuskegee school. This, as stated in the report, is worked out and is, of course, in line with their other departments of industrial training.

SCHOOLS OF THE SECOND CLASS, FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED BEDS.

Papers returned, eighty-two; papers returned blank, nineteen; monthly allowances are given in fifty-five; uniforms supplied in eleven (four of these do not have allowances); text-books supplied in five; charge for breakage in eighteen.

Maintenance stated in eleven reports ranges from one hundred and fifty dollars up to three hundred and sixty-five dollars. Tuition fee charged for massage in one case. No prizes and no loan funds reported. One reports no allowances, but uniforms are supplied, and a certain per cent. of funds received from outside cases.

THIRD CLASS, OVER ONE HUNDRED BEDS.

Papers returned, one hundred and fourteen; papers returned blank, fourteen; monthly allowances in seventy; uniforms supplied in fourteen

* Read at the meeting of Superintendents of Training-Schools held in Washington, D. C., May, 1905.

(six also have an allowance); uniform and text-books without allowance in eight; charge for breakage in eighteen.

Maintenance stated in nineteen reports ranges from one hundred dollars to seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Fellowships are offered in two schools, scholarships in three, loan funds in three, prizes in two.

A number of schools have given such valuable points I wish to quote them quite fully later on. It is quite the custom to have some arrangement by which broken articles can be replaced or paid for. It seems a most business-like way to have a certain fee deposited and statement made of breakage, should there be a surplus the balance to be returned to the student. The sums for allowances vary from two dollars to fifteen dollars, but the general average is about eight dollars. They are graduated for the three years, the lowest made in the first year. They are still called salaries by some and are even so stated in their circulars of information sent out to applicants.

The question of yearly maintenance of the pupil proved to be quite a problem from the varied responses made to it. They range from one hundred dollars to seven hundred and fifty dollars. From four hundred to five hundred dollars would be a fair average of yearly expense, including allowances. It is a question well worth raising in this transition period of standards, for cause and effect must be carefully studied in all these questions of salaried instructors, eight-hour schedule, non-payment system, preparatory schools, tuition fees, and scholarships. The yearly maintenance is certainly a part of it if we make for good business principles.

No allowances, uniforms, or text-books reported in four schools. They are Kings County, Brooklyn; Illinois Training-School, Chicago, Ill.; John Sealy Hospital, Galveston, Tex.; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.; Presbyterian, New York, non-payment in 1904, with uniforms and text-books to the preliminary class.

Fee of fifteen dollars deposited for breakage.

Maintenance, four hundred and eighty dollars.

I do not know whether this includes allowances or not, but believe this was calculated before the non-payment plan was established. Loans are made by the superintendent of the school in case of sickness. No note is required.

Lakeside Training-School, Cleveland, O., makes no allowances, charges a tuition fee for preliminary course, and has offered six fifty-dollar prizes annually, since 1898, awarded to best scholarship. It provides loan funds of fifty dollars each, to be paid one year after graduation with four per cent. interest. A personal note is required but no security.

Presbyterian Training-School, Chicago, Ill., requires a tuition fee (twenty-five dollars) for the preliminary course. It makes no allowances and supplies no uniforms nor text-books.

Buffalo General Training-School charges a tuition fee for the three-months' preliminary course. Gives an allowance of one hundred dollars the third year and charges a five-dollar fee for breakage.

Children's Hospital, Boston, Mass., charges a tuition fee for the preliminary course to be paid on entrance. No allowance is made and no uniforms or text-books supplied.

Massachusetts General asks a tuition fee of fifty dollars in advance for the preliminary course. No allowances are given, no uniforms, and no text-books supplied. A fee of ten dollars is charged for breakage. They also offer scholarships for those who need financial aid. I understand that as yet no application has been made for this assistance.

At the Polyclinic Training-School, Philadelphia, Pa., two prizes of fifty dollars each are awarded to the second- and third-year classes respectively for highest rank in scholarship and practical work. Monthly allowances are made, but uniforms and text-books are not supplied.

In the New York Training-School, New York City, no allowances are made, but uniforms, text-books, and stationery are supplied. No tuition required and no fee charged for breakage. The announcement offers the following: Five competitive scholarships of the value of seventy-five dollars each may be awarded in the junior year, five of one hundred dollars each in the intermediate year, and three of one hundred dollars each in the senior year. The scholarships are established primarily for those pupils who are unable from their own resources to meet their personal expenses during the course and whose general record of scholarship and practical work is creditable. Application for these scholarships should be made to the superintendent of the Training-School. Two scholarships of five hundred dollars each have been established for approved candidates for the Superintendents' Course in Hospital Economics at Teachers College, Columbia University. As this course is intended to prepare graduates for institutional positions, these scholarships will be awarded to those pupils who have expressed their intention of entering this field and have attained a high degree of excellence in their work.

At the Johns Hopkins Training-School, Baltimore, Md., the superintendent of the Training-School has a fund at her disposal for loans in case of necessity. Fifty dollars tuition fee is charged in advance for the preparatory course. Uniforms and text-books are supplied and a fee of ten dollars is charged for breakage. Their announcement offers: Eight scholarships, of the value of one hundred dollars each, have been estab-

lished. These scholarships will be awarded in the month of June each year by the authorities of the hospital, at their discretion, to such members of the junior and intermediate classes as have shown exceptional merit and are in need of pecuniary assistance to enable them to continue their studies. A single scholarship of the value of four hundred and eighty dollars has been established, to be awarded at the graduating exercises, at the close of the third year, to the student whose work has been of the highest excellence and who desires to pursue post-graduate study and special work in the school.

Our first consideration is the comparison of the situation as a whole to-day with that of a few years ago. The tendency is on the sliding scale up grade. The allowances have grown smaller all along the line till they have in many instances disappeared altogether, while the uniforms and text-books have been supplied in some, but not all. It is with satisfaction I note the few instances of loan funds. Twenty-five dollars a week looks so much larger to a pupil nurse than it does to a graduate. The accumulation of wealth after graduation is one of the pupil nurse's day-dreams, but in stern reality the first year of private duty in the majority of cases has not been an opportunity to start a bank account. A pupil nurse, handicapped with a debt, I believe cannot do as well as one free from such responsibility, and the first year out of school certainly will have its share of troubles. One loan fund mentioned asks for six per cent. interest—note and security. I think that rate of interest would not appeal very strongly to anyone as being an inducement. Loan funds for such purposes are usually of remarkably low rate of interest. In the Eastern States I believe two per cent. is customary, and a note is all that is required. The Lakeside comes nearer to the customary practice. One report states that the superintendent makes a loan in case of sickness. That makes it a personal matter, which sometimes is the only solution of a problem. The fourth is a fund in the hands of the superintendent to be used when necessary; this is another humane way of getting over a difficulty without making it too general. Loan funds may sometimes be necessary, but must be used with the greatest discretion. It is quite the regular thing to ask a tuition fee for the preliminary course, and this surely will soon be the universal rule as the development of the course extends it from the short period it now has, in too many, to the course of from three to six months. Another promising feature of the upward tendency is the provision for scholarships. The old question of shutting out good material for financial reasons is overcome. It is a common practice in old-established institutions of learning and a most commendable one. The ground principle of it is to assist students of promise who would otherwise be obliged to give up their work.

The awarding of scholarships should be at the discretion of the superintendent of the training-school, in conjunction with a committee appointed by the board, to applicants who give evidence of special fitness. A blank form is furnished the applicant containing the following questions:

1. Name in full.
2. Place and date of birth.
3. Residence—present address if other than above.
4. Date of making this application.
5. High school attended with period of attendance.
6. Normal school or preparatory school attended with period of attendance.
7. College attended with period of attendance.
8. State the amount of work done and time occupied by you in the following subjects: Mathematics, history, geography, anatomy, physiology, biology, bacteriology, physical geography, physics, chemistry (inorganic, organic), English composition, English literature. This list may be changed to meet the requirements as the standards of the schools are raised.
9. State whether you are able to read and write German or French.
10. State your purpose in applying for a scholarship.
11. Give an itemized list of the letters of recommendation you submit in support of your application.
12. Do you pledge yourself to repay to the (name of school) any sum already paid to you on account of your scholarship, should you for any purpose withdraw from the school before the end of your course?

They need not necessarily be awarded to the highest rank of scholarship should that student not be in need of financial aid, but to the highest-grade student who does need the assistance, providing a certain standard of theoretical and practical work satisfactory to the committee is obtained. I believe this has been settled in quite a practical way at the Johns Hopkins. Where scholarships awarded the highest grade of efficiency were not needed the money was refunded and again awarded. I think, however, the practice is for only such applicants to compete as are in need. Another means for reward for greatest efficiency is that of prizes. The Lakeside, Cleveland, and the Polyclinic, Philadelphia, have followed this plan for some time. It certainly is an incentive oftentimes, and that not so much for the value of the prize as the pride in being the successful competitor. The closer the competition, the greater the honor. But the feature which is the crown, the final point, of this movement are the fellowships founded in the Johns Hopkins and the New York Hospitals, to be awarded to those applicants who have

attained the highest degree of excellence and show a decided fitness for undertaking advanced work.

When the other institutions fall in line with the leaders, the proper educational basis will be established, and the history being made to-day will be a chapter in the record of the good fight for our profession.



THE PREVENTION OF PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.—The *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal*, in an abstract of an article in *The Practitioner*, says: "Berry Hart considers that in this disease the lymphatics are invaded by microbes conveyed on the fingers of the attendant or from the patients' uncleansed external genitals. Infection may also arise from preëxisting disease in the uterus or its appendages. Preventive measures consist: 1. In avoidance of infection by clean hands with or without gloves. 2. In cleansing the external genitals. 3. In avoiding laceration by skilful conduct during the labor. 4. In avoiding uterine manipulation to separate the placenta, which does not exclude manipulation during hemorrhage. 5. In general hygienic care during pregnancy. A vaginal douche may be given at the end of labor, but subsequently cleansing should be accomplished with cotton moistened in bichloride solution. Puerperal infection is preventable, and should be prevented by conscientious individual effort."

INTRAVENOUS ADMINISTRATION OF OXYGEN.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in an abstract of a paper in the *Wiener klinische Wochenschrift*, says: "Neudörfer reports from Gersuny's clinic the revival of an apparently moribund patient by intravenous administration of oxygen. Compression of the air-passages by a cystic goitre complicated with bronchitis and lobular pneumonia caused suffocation, even after tracheotomy. As the attacks of cyanosis and dyspnœa recurred oxygen was injected into a vein, according to Gaertner's technic. Each time the patient rallied, recovered consciousness, and felt much relieved. There were no further indications of suffocation after the second infusion, but the patient succumbed in a few days to increasing heart weakness and pulmonary œdema. The complete change in the aspect of the apparently moribund subject in a few minutes after the intravenous infusion was most striking. Neudörfer remarks in conclusion that the absolute harmlessness of the method was again demonstrated by this experience."